Claims:

1. A thermal ink which comprises a colour former, a colour developer and a sensitizer, characterised in that the colour former comprises 3-dibutylamino-6-methyl-7-anilinofluoran; the colour developer comprises bisphenol A; and the sensitizer comprises dimethyl terephthalate; and that the ink also comprises at least one pigment.

2. A thermal ink according to claim 1, in which 3-dibutylamino-6-methyl-7-anilinofluoran is the only colour former present, and bisphenol A is the only colour developer present.

3. A thermal ink according to either claim 1 or claim 2, which is free of wax.

4. A thermal ink according to any one of claims 1 to 3, in which the pigment is calcined clay, precipitated calcium carbonate, and/or silica.

5. A thermal ink according to any one of claims 1 to 4, in which the particle size of solids present in the ink is less than 1.5μ.

6. A thermal ink according to claim 5, in which the particle size of solids present in the ink is less than 10μ.

7. A thermal ink according to any one of claims 1 to 6, which also comprises polyvinyl alcohol.

8. A method of preparing a thermal ink according to any one of claims 1 to 7, which comprises grinding together the colour former and DMT; in a separate operation, grinding together the colour developer and DMT; and subsequently blending together said ground products together with a pigment.

9. The use of a combination of 3-dibutylamino-6-methyl-7-anilinofluoran and bisphenol A in a thermal ink also comprising DMT as sensitizer and also comprising a pigment, to reduce unwanted discolouration during storage of a thermally printable sheet product comprising a base sheet having at least one surface coated with a layer containing a pigment in solid porous particulate form, said thermal ink being printed upon said coated surface.

10. The use of a combination of a thermal ink comprising 3-dibutylamino-6-methyl-7-anilinofluoran as colour former, bisphenol A as colour developer, DMT as sensitizer, and a pigment, and a surface coating comprising a pigment in solid porous particulate form, to reduce unwanted discolouration during storage of a thermally printable sheet product.